

**1. Please tell us about an interactive technology-based program or project you have integrated into your curriculum. How does it enable students to create, learn and have fun?**

One of the first activities we have started out with is an activity we have named Mystery Box. At the beginning each student is given \$2.00 to buy the ability to ask a question for 2 cents. On the SMART Board the teacher has created a chart that is labeled yes and no, and as the students ask the question, their question is recorded either under the yes, if it has something to do with the item in the mystery box or under the no, if it does not have anything to do with the mystery box. The teacher also maintains the dollar balance of each student as they ask questions.

**2. How did this program come to be? Was it through teacher development trainings, did outside consultants introduce the program, was it created and initiated by individual or groups of teachers, or something else?**

Our teachers were exposed to SMART Boards at technology conferences that they have attended. As our school has started to add SMART Boards into the classrooms, training has been provided through school workshops and CESA 4 training. Once the teachers have gone through the training and have become more comfortable in using the SMART Board, we encourage them to create different grade level specific activities to do with their students. The program in question 1 was something that a classroom teacher had created for her second grade classroom. Originally this was something that was performed using an overhead projector but was converted to be orchestrated via a SMART Board which provided additional options, quicker transitions, and more reusability.

**3. Please identify the greatest challenge you faced introducing this program, and the greatest enabling factor.**

Due to our lack of consistent technology funding, we currently only have 2 traveling SMART Boards, and this has fostered our greatest challenge. This is challenging because even though students and staff have been successful and enjoyed using the SMART Boards in their learning, it has challenged teachers to look at teaching in a new way and has made them rethink how they present the curriculum to include this new way of learning. This change is more difficult when availability isn't guaranteed, so even if teachers put forth the effort to change and enrich their lessons, it may not work out for them if the SMART Board isn't available. When this unfortunate timing happens, it tends to dampen the willingness for teachers to invest a lot into updating and enriching their lessons as there is a chance for all their effort to be for not.

**4. In relation to this program, how do you evaluate your students' engagement, retention and fun?**

With the activity mentioned in question 1, the teacher evaluates the quality of the students' questions, the number of questions being asked by each student, how well they work together to figure out what is in the mystery box, and how well they encourage each other as they answer questions. One advantage of using the SMART Board over the previous method of using the overhead is that the teacher has more time to observe and evaluate, versus writing, erasing, and swapping slides all the time, resulting in a better and more complete evaluation.

**5. How long has this program been available to students?**

This is the first year that the SMART Boards have been available to the teachers and students in their classrooms. Because of the few opportunities that the students have had to explore and learn by using the SMART Board, when they do get the opportunity, the interaction and excitement within the classroom increases. We plan on purchasing more SMART Boards in the future so that each classroom has their own to use throughout their day.

**6. Briefly outline how you will use the Tierney Brothers Classroom of the Future Technology Grant award. Include an implementation timeline.**

When we are successful in receiving the award, we would first determine in which classroom the SMART Board would be mounted. Once that decision is made we would get it mounted and connected to the teacher's computer in that classroom. During the installation of the hardware, we would setup Safari Montage server and get the program up and running, followed by a roll out of information to teachers including what Safari Montage is, how it can be used, where to find it, how to log in, and information on how to get started. Our goal is to have it operational and accessible for teachers by August 1st, and being used in classrooms at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year.

**8. Have you participated in any of the Tierney Brothers Classroom of the Future contests in the past? How did you hear about the Classroom of the Future program?**

We have not participated in any of the Tierney Brothers Classroom of the Future contests in the past, but we do plan on additional participation in the future. We heard about the Classroom of the Future program through an email which was sent to the school and also by further online research and looking at your website for more information.

**9. Have you purchased from Tierney Brothers in the past five years?**

We have purchased from Tierney Brothers in the past. We purchased our two mobile SMART Boards, stands, projectors and all other SMART Board accessories from Tierney Brothers. Our Parent Support Group is also looking to purchase an additional SMART Board from Tierney Brothers this year with proceeds from our school fundraising. We have had a very positive experience with these past purchases and plan to continue this partnership as we continue our technology investments.

**10. Have you used Interactive White Board technology in your classrooms or resource areas before? If so, how many in the school or district?**

This is the first year for our school to have the Interactive White Board technology and also for the Aquinas Catholic Schools system. Aquinas Catholic Schools has 5 locations (Aquinas High School, Aquinas Middle School, Cathedral, Blessed Sacrament and St. Patrick Elementary School) and at this point each location has at least two SMART Boards.

**11. What computer platform does each grade level use? Mac or PC? Why?**

All grade levels throughout our school system use PC computers. We have chosen PC computers because this is what most students have at home and this is what they will use at the next level of their education at Aquinas Middle and High School. Another factor is that PCs are the most cost effective, which allows us to stretch our funding to provide more computers for the students. The final factor is that this is what our staff is the most familiar with, reducing the necessary training and support.

**12. Does your school district have a technology implementation plan currently? If so, how old and are district goals being achieved?**

Currently our technology implementation plan is a prioritized list of requested technology. As funding becomes available we will then take the opportunity to purchase more SMART Boards and other related technology. Increasing the number of classrooms with SMART Boards is a top priority from both a teacher and administrative perspective.